16th March 1961]

Sri Andal idol (Srivilliputhur temple)

* 889 *Q.*—Sri T. S. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Sri Andal idol of Srivilliputhur temple fell down and was damaged on 1st January 1961;

(*b*) the cause of the accident; and

(*c*) the extent of damage caused?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) When the deities were stopped before Srinivasar Sannadhi for "Vedavinnappam", one Ayakkal at the back 'Thandu' on the right side of the idol slipped and fell on the floor. As a result of this shock of the impact of the 'Thandu', the upper portion of the idol got separated above the ankles of both the legs due to the heavy weight of the top portion of the idol;

(*c*) A small depression in the 'Muthu Kondai' of Sri Andal and in the Kreetam of Sri Rengamannar.

Sri S. RANGANATHA MUDALIAR: Is there any idea to perform 'Samprokshanam' in this connection?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: This accident happened during festival and in order to continue the festival, one 'samprokshanam' was performed under the advice of experts and pandits. It is proposed to do some more repairs and then do a comprehensive 'samprokshanam'.

Sri V. SUBBIAH: இந்த ராஜமன்னார் விக்ரகத்திற்கும் ஆண்டாள் விக்ரகத்திற்கும் சேர்ந்து இது ஏற்பட்டு இருக்கிறதா அல்லது ஆண்டாள் விக்ரகத்திற்கு மட்டுமா?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: விபத்து ஆண்டாள் விக்ரகத்திற்கு ஏற்பட்டது, ராஜமன்னார் விக்ரகமும் கொஞ்சம் சேதம் அடைந்தது என்று சொன்னேன்.

Sri S. RANGANATHA MUDALIAR: Is it likely that the State will give aid towards this 'samprokshanam' and repair?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: There is no need for the State coming forward to give aid. There are funds for the temple and there are worshippers who will be too anxious to offer liberal funds towards 'samprokshanam' and other renovation and repair works.